

Appl. No. 09/920,208
Amdt. dated May 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

The claims are modified in the amendment. More specifically, claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10-14, 16 and 20 have been amended; claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled; and no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-16 and 19-20 are present for examination. No new matter is added by these amendments. Among other things, these amendments address the objections and §112 rejection in a manner consistent with the Examiner's recommendations. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

35 U.S.C. §102 & §103 Rejections

The Office Action has variously rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,925 to Guercio et al. (hereinafter "Guercio"), U.S. Patent No. 6,466,653 to Hamrick et al. (hereinafter "Hamrick"), U.S. Patent No. 6,148,213 to Bertocci et al. (hereinafter "Bertocci"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,078,581 to Shtivelman et al. (hereinafter "Shtivelman"). The amended claims are believed to have limitations not taught or suggested in these references. More specifically, none of Guercio, Hamrick, Bertocci, and Shtivelman teach or suggest: (1) receiving a criterion or selection before the incoming call that is used in correlating the identifier with the announcement as required by claims 1 and 9; and (2) storing a pre-recorded voice announcement in an announcement storage database remote to the telephone equipment as required by claim 16. Since the cited references do not reasonably teach or suggest these limitations, reconsideration of these rejection is respectfully requested.

First Missing Limitation: Manually Entered Correlation Criterion

Claims 1 and 9 require receiving a criterion or selection before the incoming call that is used in correlating the identifier with the announcement. None of the references teach this additional criterion. In one embodiment, this criterion allows using customized recorded

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messages for certain situations. Guercio does simple one-to-one matching of number to message and cannot offer this flexibility.

Second Missing Limitation: Remotely Stored Voice Announcement

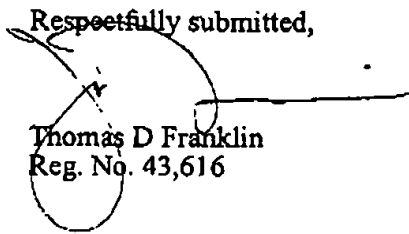
Claims 16 requires receiving storing a pre-recorded voice announcement in an announcement storage database remote to the telephone equipment. By having this stored remotely in one embodiment, the user's legacy telephone equipment does not require any modification or updating. Guercio records the voice announcements local to the telephone equipment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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